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RURAL DISTRICT OF MALLING

ANNUAL REPORT

For 1937

on the

Health of the Malling
District

By the
Medical Officer of Health
(Dr. N. HAY BOLTON.)
and
Sanitary Inspector
(Mr. S. L. BUNDY.)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

N. HAY BOLTON, M.D., Ch.B., D.T.M. and H., F.R.C.S. (Edin.).

Medical Officer, Isolation Hospital:

J. VINCENT BATES, M.A., M.D., Ch.B. (Cantab.).

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:

STEPHEN L. BUNDY, M.S.I.A., Certificated R.S.I.

Housing Officer:

JOHN HOLE, M.Inst.M. and Cy.E., Certificated R.S.I.

Matron of the Isolation Hospital:

MISS L. RICHARDS, S.R.N.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MALLING RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my fourth Annual Report on the health of the area, for the year ended 31st December, 1937.

The Report closely follows the lines set out in Circular 1650 issued by the Ministry of Health, as to the contents and arrangement of such Reports.

The practice adopted last year whereby the Sanitary Inspector reports separately on the sanitary circumstances of the area, together with the work carried out by his Department has been continued.

There have been no noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity during the year under review. The incidence of infectious disease has been fairly low, the total number of cases notified being 98 as compared with 94 for the previous year.

SECTION A.

Area of the District in acres	...	...	...	45,650
Alterations to the boundaries during the year	...	...	...	Nil.
Population (Estimated by the Registrar General)	...	...	...	30,630
Number of inhabited houses (end 1937) according to the Rate Books—computed	...	...	...	8,846
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£165,047
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£660

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS—	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	446	238	208
Illegitimate	15	10	5
Total Live Births	461	248	213

Rate per thousand of the estimated population 15.05

Comparative Rates :—1936 ... 14.34

1935 ... 14.9

1934 ... 14.63

STILL BIRTHS—

Legitimate	17	10	7
Illegitimate	2	2	Nil.

Rate per thousand of total (live and still) births 39.58

Comparative Rates :—1936 ... 31.10

1935 ... 28.34

1934 ... 26.48

DEATHS—

Total ... 336

Rate per thousand of the population ... 10.97 (crude.)

Adjusted for comparison with the rest of England and Wales, i.e., multiplied by the Areal Comparability Factor provided by Registrar-General of 0.88

... 9.65

1936 ... 11.52

1935 ... 11.41

1934 ... 12.40

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—

(As under Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	30.37
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	26.90
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	133.33

Comparative Rates :—

All infants per 1,000 live births :—1936 ...	68.8
1935 ...	33.33
1934 ...	45.55
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	54
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. The population of the area continues to grow and in the past ten years there has been an increase of close on 5,000. The comparative nearness to London allied with the amenities of the district accounts for the increase. The expansion has been most noticeable in the Parishes of East Malling, Ditton and the southern part of Aylesford, as noted in my Report for 1936, and considerable progress has been made in the building of houses by private enterprise.

The death rate of 9.65 per 1,000 population compares very favourably with the rate of 12.4 for England and Wales, whilst the birth rate of 15.05 is higher than the average for England and Wales, which is 14.9 per 1,000 of the population.

Amongst the principal industries are agriculture, paper making, the manufacture of bricks, the making of cement, sand pits and gravel works, and brewing. These industries provide regular employment for the majority of the population. The conditions both by comparison with other districts and with former years are quite satisfactory. Unemployment figures have not been excessive and have remained about normal during the year. No cases have been brought to my notice where conditions wholly

due to unemployment have exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults; and very few instances have been reported of children suffering from actual malnutrition. On the whole I think it may be said that the area has enjoyed a reasonably prosperous year.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. As recorded in previous reports pathological specimens and samples for analysis are submitted to the County Pathologist or Public Analyst, at Sessions House, Maidstone. These facilities remain unchanged. In practice these arrangements made by the County Council have proved adequate and highly satisfactory at all times, and the services are very complete and much appreciated.

The work of the County Veterinary Staff has proceeded on the same lines as indicated in my previous Reports. Special attention has been paid to the eradication of tuberculosis from herds of milch cows. Routine inspections have been carried out at the various farms and this, it is hoped, together with samples of milk for bacteriological examination taken from suspected cows, will in the future ensure a reasonably safe milk supply. Great importance is attached to this class of work and it is difficult to assess the benefit derived by the public in general, due in the main to the care and attention now paid to the production of a clean and safe milk supply.

No cases of undulant fever were brought to my notice during the year.

(b) NURSING IN THE HOME. The arrangements made by the Kent County Council have been fully set out in previous reports. These arrangements are very comprehensive and the County Council are responsible for the administration of all legislation in regard to midwifery and home nursing.

During the year there were 18 midwives practising in the area under the supervision of the County Medical Officer, in addition to 11 practising midwives in the various parishes who are subsidised by the County Council.

In extreme or necessitous cases medical assistance is provided.

Regular home visiting by trained health visitors appointed by the County Council is carried out and the importance of this work cannot be too highly stressed.

These services are adequate and the excellent work carried out in conjunction with various voluntary bodies is worthy of the highest praise.

Special praise should be given to the various village nursing associations, who, through the efforts of a local committee comprised of residents, maintain and support by means of local subscriptions, a nurse for their respective communities.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There are eight centres in the district the details of which were given in previous Reports. No noteworthy changes or alterations have been made in these services during the year under review. The work in connection with these centres continues to extend fairly rapidly.

ANTE NATAL CLINICS.

There are four ante-natal clinics in the area, one at Aylesford, one at Borough Green, one at Snodland and one at West Malling. A medical officer and a nurse is in attendance at each centre, for the purpose of examining and advising expectant mothers.

(c) HOSPITALS. The Council maintains an Isolation Hospital at East Malling for the reception and treatment of cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria. The Hospital answers its purpose very satisfactorily and the facilities provided are quite adequate for the requirements of the district.

SMALLPOX. Mention has already been made in previous Reports as to the provision made for dealing with cases of small-pox should the occasion arise.

As regards hospitals for surgical and non-infectious cases the area is well served by the Sevenoaks Hospital, the West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone, and the Wrotham Cottage Hospital. Full details were set out in my Report for the year 1936, as to the parishes served and the accommodation available.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Mention was made in my Report for last year of the low incidence of infectious disease. The slight increase in the number of notified cases as compared with last year is accounted for by the increase in the number of cases of pneumonia notified. In my view it is unnecessary to attach any special significance to this as these figures fluctuate from year to year; and on the whole it may be stated that the health of the community remains very satisfactory.

The following cases of notifiable diseases occurred during the year:—

Diseases	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	33	29	Nil
Diphtheria	24	23	Nil
Enteric Fever	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia	30	Nil	13
Puerperal Fever	1	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	8	Nil	Nil

SMALLPOX. No cases of smallpox were reported during the year.

SCARLET FEVER. During the year 33 cases of scarlet fever occurred and 29 cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital at East Mallong for treatment, four cases being treated at home. The disease was distributed fairly evenly throughout the area and was of a sporadic nature. No “return” cases were brought to my notice and the disease was of a mild type. One member of the staff at the Hospital contracted the disease.

The death rate was nil.

The case rate was 1.7 as compared with 2.33 per 1,000 population for England and Wales.

DIPHTHERIA. Twenty-four cases of diphtheria were notified, of which 23 cases were removed to hospital, the remaining case being nursed at home. It is interesting to note that there has been a reduction in the number of cases notified as compared with the previous year. In connection with these cases there is nothing of great interest to report as in all instances the disease ran its normal course.

No deaths occurred from diphtheria.

The case rate was .78 as compared with 1.49 per thousand for England and Wales.

ENTERIC FEVER. One case was reported during the year. The death rate was nil.

PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA. Two cases one of fever and one of pyrexia were notified during the year. The death rate was nil.

The case rate respectively was 4.17 per 1,000 live and still births as compared with 13.93 for England and Wales.

PNEUMONIA. Thirteen deaths, 10 males and 3 females were registered as due to pneumonia, as compared with 22 for the previous year, yielding a death rate of .42 per thousand population.

Thirty notifications were received during the year which gives a case rate of .97 per 1,000 population whilst the corresponding figure for England and Wales was 1.36. Not every case of pneumonia is notified however, so that too much stress must not be laid on these figures.

ERYSIPELAS. Eight cases were notified during the year giving a case rate of .26 per 1,000 population whilst the corresponding figure for England and Wales was .37.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER. One death was registered as due to this disease.

TUBERCULOSIS. No necessity for action arose during the year under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The table set out below gives the details of the new cases admitted to the register during the year together with such deaths as occurred :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0— 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1— 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—15	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
15—25	1	5	...	2	...	1	...	...
25—35	2	2	1	...	3	1	1	...
35—45	3	1	...	...	4	...	...	1
45—55	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
55—65	1	1	1	...	1	2	2	...
65 upwards.	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Totals	8	10	2	2	10	5	3	1

DISINFECTION. During the year the following premises and bedding were disinfected:—

After scarlet fever	...	...	25
After diphtheria	...	...	35
After tuberculosis	...	...	20
After cancer	...	...	13

Disinfection was carried out as in previous years by formaldehyde gas, the bedding being treated at the Hospital.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

INFLUENZA. As in the past this has been the more serious of the non-notifiable infectious diseases, and has been the cause of considerable illness. Eight deaths were registered, 6 males and 2 females as compared with 7 for 1936. The death rate was .26 as compared with .45 for England and Wales.

MEASLES AND CHICKEN POX. The incidence of these diseases was high amongst elementary school children, especially during the first and last quarter of the year. They were of a mild type however, and no deaths were registered.

WHOOPING COUGH. This disease was not nearly so prevalent as in the past few years, and no deaths were registered as due to whooping cough.

CANCER. No local investigations have been undertaken in connection with this disease. Treatment for sufferers was carried out at the West Kent General Hospital, Maidstone. The number of deaths registered during the year was 54 as compared with 44 for the previous year. Of the total deaths 30 were males and 24 were females. The death rate for the area was 1.76 per 1,000 population.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The table set out below shows the number of deaths from all causes during the year :—

CAUSES OF DEATH							Number	
*No.	Cause						Male	Female
6	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
8	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
9	Tuberculosis (of the Respiratory System)	...	...	...	...	...	10	5
10	Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
12	General Paralysis of the Insane and Tabes Dorsalis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
13	Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	30	24
14	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	8	7
16	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	40	44
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	16	13
19	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
20	Pneumonia (all Forms)	...	...	...	...	...	10	3
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
22	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	7	...
24	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
26	Other Liver diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
27	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	2
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	8	9
31	Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformation, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	9	3
32	Senility	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
34	Other Violence	...	...	...	...	...	12	5
35	Other defined Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	12	12
Totals							191	145

The numbers tabulated under the asterisk denote the number of the specific disease as adopted by the General Register Office in accordance with the Manual of the International List of Causes of Death.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
N. HAY BOLTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

5th July, 1938.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
WEST MALLING.

To the Chairman and Members of the Malling Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting the following details of the sanitary circumstances of the area and the work carried out by my Department during the year ended 31st December, 1937.

SECTION C.

WATER. During the year the supply of water throughout the district has maintained its usual high standard of purity. No new sources of supply have been utilised. The major portion of the area is supplied by the Mid or South Kent Water Company.

1,528 yards of 3in. main were laid the details of which are set out in the following Table:—

Size.	Yards.	Locality and Parish.
3in.	218	Common Lane, Ightham.
3in.	719	Kiln Barn Road, Ditton.
3in.	122	Holtwood, Aylesford.
3in.	115	Pilgrims' Way, Wrotham.
3in.	230	London Road, Ditton.
3in.	124	Walderslade Estate, Aylesford.
Total		1,528

The position as regards the Kits Coty Estate, in the parish of Aylesford, is materially the same as reported last year.

There are a number of properties within the district which still derive their supply from wells. From time to time samples are submitted to the County Analyst for examination and in the event of a sample proving unsatisfactory if a mains supply is available the owner is requested to connect to same. If a mains supply is not available steps are taken to ensure as far as possible that the well is protected from contamination. To this end the owner is requested to open the well, and an inspection is made by an officer of the Department in order to ascertain the condition of the well and to see if there is any evidence of pollution gaining access to the water. Every endeavour is made to determine the source of pollution, and after certain improvements have been effected such as cleaning out the well, relining the sides, and closing the top, etc.,

it has been found in all cases on re-sampling that the quality of the water has improved.

SAMPLES, ETC. Six samples of well-water were taken and submitted to the County Analyst for examination. In one case the Analyst reported the water to be unfit for drinking purposes and the mains water was laid on to the premises. The remaining waters were reported to be of good quality and well suited for drinking purposes.

No cases of infectious disease attributed to water occurred during the year, and no special investigations were carried out.

Five samples of the Company's water were submitted for chemical examination by the Company's Analyst, Mr. Edward Hinks. All the samples were reported to be of a high degree of organic purity and well suited for a public supply.

The results of these samples are summarised below :—

	Average	Maximum	Minimum
Free Ammonia	0.00264	0.0036	0.0010
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.00072	0.0010	0.0005
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes ...	0.0036	0.005	0.003
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours ...	0.0068	0.010	0.005
Total solids	23.78	25.4	21.5
Chlorine	1.734	1.8	1.60
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.258	0.35	0.14
Nitrogen as Nitrites	0.00016	0.0008	Nil
Temporary Hardness } in degrees	10.472	11.13	9.59
Permanent Hardness }	2.674	3.43	2.17
Total Hardness }	13.146	14.35	11.76

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No extensive alterations have been carried out during the year and the position may be described briefly as follows :—

AYLESFORD AND BURHAM DRAINAGE. As mentioned in my Report for the previous year a scheme has been prepared to convert the plunger pumps now in operation at the Aylesford pumping station to automatic electrically controlled centrifugal pumps. The scheme has been approved but the actual conversion has not yet been commenced. It is hoped that the work will be proceeded with as early as possible as the increasing inefficiency of the present pumping equipment becomes more and more obvious.

Certain works had to be carried out to the outfall owing to congestion by mud and weeds. A considerable improvement has been effected.

In October, it was decided that areas including Holtwood, Teapot Lane, and that part of Aylesford and Burham in the Blue Bell Hill district should have the services of the cesspool emptier as a charge on the special rate. This service is very much appreciated by the householders in these areas.

WEST MALLING. Attention was drawn in my Report for 1936, to the fact that the effluent discharged from the purification works was far from satisfactory. During the year under review every effort has been made to make an improvement, and to this end certain works were carried out. In addition the mains water was laid on to the farm, and the septic tanks, filtering media, etc., were thoroughly cleansed and overhauled. Every care is taken to ensure that the effluent is of as good a quality as possible.

The pumping stations at St. Leonard's Street and Swan Street have continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year. As regards the former, trouble was experienced in connection with spring water gaining access to the sewer. On investigation it was found that certain private drains connected to the sewer were defective thus allowing the ingress of ground water. Informal notices were served on the owners concerned for the defective drains to be repaired. The notices were complied with and no further trouble arose.

LONDON ROAD PUMPING STATION. New electric pumps were fitted at this station and the whole building was reconstructed. The pumps are working very efficiently and are a great improvement on the plunger pumps previously existing.

EAST MALLING AND DITTON. The same conditions prevail and no noteworthy alterations or extensions have been carried out. Difficulty has again been experienced in connection with the disposal of the sludge. To try and get over this difficulty arrangements have been made whereby the sludge is removed free of charge to various farms in the vicinity.

WROTHAM AND BOROUGH GREEN. The chlorinating apparatus at Borough Green is only used during hot weather and no further complaints of smells have been received.

The pumping stations at Wrotham and Borough Green and the disposal works at Crouch and Plaxtol are in good working order, and there have been only a few minor repairs necessary.

SNODLAND. Trouble has been experienced from time to time during the year with the sewers in general and especially with the sewer in the Holborough Road. It was found on opening the road that a section of the sewer was crushed. To obviate any further

trouble a cast iron pipe was substituted. It may be mentioned that the sewers in general are far from satisfactory and constant care and attention is required to keep them in efficient working order.

The Council's employee finds his time fully occupied at the sewage farm and dealing with complaints of choked drains, etc. More trouble is experienced here than in any other part of the area. In spite of constant and prolonged propaganda it appears that a certain section of the community still continue to look upon drains as a means of getting rid of all kinds of unwanted articles, and blockages in the drains are frequently found to be due to either wilful neglect on the part of the tenant or to sheer carelessness.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No serious cause for complaint arose during the year, and as far as can be ascertained no serious cases of pollution exist. In three instances informal action was taken against private individuals where it was found that discharges of a noxious nature were being allowed to discharge into streams.

Two complaints were received in respect of a lake and it was suggested that the water was heavily polluted with sewage. Investigations were made and two samples of the water were submitted to the County Analyst, who reported that both the waters were clean and had a similar composition. The water did not show evidence of sewage pollution and they were of very fair organic quality. It was suggested by the Analyst that the odour was due to a vegetable growth.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Throughout the district are the following types of sanitary accommodation:—

5,075 premises with water closets discharging into sewers.

3,357 premises with water closets discharging into cesspools.

118 premises with privy accommodation with fixed receptacles.

678 premises with "Pail" closets.

As in the past the number of privies in the district continues to decline. During the year five privies were converted to pail closets and seven pail closets to water closets. In all cases the work was carried out voluntarily by the owner and in no instance was it found necessary to resort to legal action.

Seventy-three new houses were connected to the Council's sewer, and 143 to cesspools.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL. The method of disposal as in previous years is by controlled tipping. There are two tips in use one at Snodland and the other at Ditton. Tipping is carried out in accordance with the Ministry's instructions and every effort is made by the staff to deal with the refuse in a proper and efficient manner.

In my Report for 1936, I commented on the fact that a scheme had been commenced whereby an extension of the service had been made so that parishes previously without a systematic service now receive a regular monthly visit. During the year under review it has been clearly shown how much this service is appreciated and householders do not fail to take advantage of the scheme. No undue difficulties have presented themselves and this regular monthly visit in my opinion, will assist to a great extent in ridding the district of litter and debris which in the past has been tipped indiscriminately by private individuals.

Throughout the year several dumps have been cleared and put in proper order.

During the year 3,002 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of and it is of interest to note that 1,658 tons of material were used in covering the refuse, making a total of 4,660 tons handled in all as compared with 3,347 tons for the corresponding period last year.

It augurs well for the method of dealing with the refuse that no serious nuisance has arisen in connection with the tips. To guard against any possible rat infestation careful watch is kept for any signs of rats and baiting by means of red squill biscuits is carried out at regular intervals as a precautionary measure.

(b) GARAGE FACILITIES. No change has been made from last year. Owing however, to the rapid growth of the district and the consequent expansion of the services it will be necessary in the near future to consider the extension of these facilities, in order that the work can be carried out as economically as possible and without any undue loss of time.

(c) CESSPOOL EMPTYING. In July delivery was taken of a new 750 gallon Dennis vacuum emptier. The old emptier had been in use for a number of years and it was considered that a new one was essential.

The vehicle operates regularly in the various parishes as noted in my previous Report.

Private work in addition to routine emptying is increasing rapidly and it is becoming extremely difficult to cope with all the requests for the vehicle's service, and it may be necessary in the near future to consider the provision of another vehicle.

The number of loads removed from cesspools was 3,496 as compared with 2,506 for the previous year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

During the year 2,176 inspections were carried out by my Department and the following detailed statement shows the nuisances abated and defects remedied :—

Overcrowding	...	...	65	Dampness remedied in			
Keeping of Animals	...	...	7	Dwellings	...	...	30
Hop Pickers' Camps	...	...	42	Roofs and Rain Water Pipes			
Sanitary Accommodation—				repaired	...	...	37
1. Where insufficient	...	...	10	Floors re-laid where Rough			
2. Where defective	...	...	37	or Faulty	...	...	17
Drainage—				Walls and Ceilings repaired			67
1. Reconstructed	...	...	18	Windows and Ventilation			
2. Repaired	...	...	14	altered to comply with			
3. Cleansed	...	...	829	requirements	...	...	18
Cesspools—				Baths, Lavatory Basins,			
1. Repaired	...	...	17	Sinks and Sanitary Fit-			
2. Abolished	...	...	14	ments repaired or provided			
Offensive Accumulations				where absent	...	...	15
removed	...	...	22	Water Supplies—			
Refuse receptacles provided				(a) New supplies provided			2
or renewed	...	...	117	(b) Precautions for pre-			
Tents, Vans and Sheds;				venting contamin-			
infringements rectified	...	...	12	ation of existing			
Smoke Nuisances abated	...	...	7	supplies	...	...	4
Yard Paving made good	...	...	21	Miscellaneous defects			
				remedied	...	...	41

SPECIAL CLASSES OF PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS SUBJECT TO CONTROL BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS, 1901 AND 1907.

Premises	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Prosecutions
Factories (74)	76	3	Nil
Workshops (44)	28	6	Nil
Workplaces (1)	3	Nil	Nil
Bakehouses (29)	43	Nil	Nil

Figures in parenthesis indicate total of such premises in the District.

PARTICULARS OF DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	Number of Defects	
	Found	Remedied
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—		
Want of Cleanliness	10	10
Want of Ventilation	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding	Nil	Nil
Want of Drainage of Floors	Nil	Nil
Other Nuisances	3	3
Sanitary Accommodation :—		
(i) Insufficient	2	2
(ii) Defective	3	3
(iii) Not separate for Sexes	Nil	Nil
Other Offences :—		
Illegal occupations of underground bake-houses	Nil	Nil
Miscellaneous	Nil	Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Premises	No. in District	Inspections	Defects Found	Defects Remedied
Slaughter Houses ...	30	206	11	10
Offensive Trades	Nil	...	...	...
Houses Let in Lodgings	Nil	...	...	...
Common Lodging Houses	Nil	...	...	...

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926. At the end of the year there were 80 registered premises in the area all of which were inspected regularly, 212 inspections being made for the purpose. It is with a great deal of satisfaction that I am able to report that conditions generally as regard cowsheds and dairies continue to improve. Systematic inspections and tactful assistance regarding the production of clean milk go a long way towards assisting in a clean milk supply. The producer is only too willing to co-operate and to carry out any suggestions made by officials in regard to improvements, and it has been found unnecessary to resort to formal action to bring the premises up to a recognised standard.

For further details reference should be made to Section E. "Milk Supply."

THE SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1936. It has been impossible to carry out all the provisions of the above Acts as efficiently as one would wish owing to lack of time. Inspections have been carried out from time to time as frequently as possible in order to ascertain if the various provisions are being complied with. Informal action was

taken in two cases where it was found that no suitable sanitary conveniences existed for the use of persons employed in the shop.

No application for exemption licenses were received during the year.

CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877-1884, ETC. Thirteen vessels were inspected under the above Acts, and it is with some pleasure that I am able to report an increase of traffic on the river within the district. The vessels inspected at the various wharves and jetties have been found to be in a clean condition, well kept and generally in good order. The Regulations were strictly adhered to by the masters and every facility was given for inspection. The condition of the living quarters were a credit to the occupiers.

It is interesting to note that of the thirteen vessels inspected only two came within the jurisdiction of the Canal Boats Acts, the other eleven being registered under the Merchant Shipping Act. This bears out my remarks in my Annual Report for 1936, that the tendency is for this class of vessel to be more frequently made use of.

No case of infectious disease was reported during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

From time to time during the year complaints have been received as to the emission of excessive smoke from factory chimneys within the district. It has, however, been found unnecessary to resort to legal action. The usual procedure is to keep the premises under observation for a definite and continuous period. If it is found that the amount of smoke being discharged is such as to cause a nuisance then the attention of the occupier is immediately drawn to the fact, and suggestions are made as to the best methods of preventing the nuisance. In all cases the occupiers were only too willing to adopt any means or agree to any suggestion as to the best means of effecting an improvement. Nowadays it is generally realised that excessive smoke discharge does not denote in any degree that the stoker is doing his work well but rather the reverse. Excessive smoke is frequently found to be due to inefficient stoking, and after the person in charge has been instructed as to the best method of firing the boilers then no further cause for complaint arises.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are two public swimming baths and one privately owned bath in the area. The baths open to the public were frequently inspected during the season, and two samples of water were sub-

mitted for bacteriological examination. In one case the bacteriologist reported rather a high count and the facts were communicated to the owner. In the other instance a satisfactory report was received. The pools are well maintained and every care is taken in order to guard against any possible contamination of the water.

ERADICATION OF THE BED BUG.

During the year three council houses and four private houses were found to be infested with bed bugs. Disinfestation was carried out by officers of the Department by means of a homogeneous gas with a sulphur base. The method of carrying out the fumigation was as follows:—

Arrangements were made with the tenants to vacate the premises on the day that disinfestation was to be carried out, the windows, doors, and fireplaces were sealed in order to render the premises as air-tight as possible; no articles were allowed to be moved from the premises before disinfestation. In some instances it was considered necessary to strip the paper off the walls in order to allow the gas to penetrate into the walls. The gas is then liberated and the premises left for a period of at least six hours, and longer if practicable. At the end of the period the house is entered and care is taken to ensure that the house is fully ventilated before reoccupation. This method, in spite of the fact that opinions differ somewhat as to its efficaciousness, has been found to be very successful in this area, and in no case has it come to my knowledge that a house has become reinfested after disinfestation has been carried out.

In regard to houses scheduled for demolition steps were taken to ascertain that the premises were free from vermin before demolition. Details of the action taken were given in my Report for 1936, and the work has proceeded on identical lines.

Great importance is attached to cleanliness and every opportunity is taken to impress upon tenants the necessity for keeping every part of the houses as clean as possible. In my experience this goes a long way in assisting to keep the premises free from infestation.

SCHOOLS.

All the schools in the district were visited from time to time, special attention being paid to the sanitary conditions and water supply. On the whole the sanitary accommodation is satisfactory. No noteworthy alterations were carried out during the year under review. Minor defects were remedied immediately attention was drawn to them.

No serious outbreak of notifiable infectious disease occurred and the general health of the school children has been of quite a high standard.

RATS AND MICE (Destruction) ACT, 1919. No serious cases of rat infestation were met with during the year. Advice is given whenever necessary as to the best means of disinfestation and a great deal of work is done in this connection. National Rat Week brings home to the general public the necessity for taking steps to guard against any possible infestation.

SECTION D.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

During the year thirty-eight houses of a semi-detached type have been built by the Council bringing the total to date up to 478 comprising the following:—

A. Non-Parlour Type—

Borough Green	...	2	Mereworth	4	
Burham	6	West Malling	3

B. Parlour Type—

East Peckham	2
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THREE BEDROOM HOUSES.

A. Non-Parlour Type—

Aylesford	48	Offham	24
Borough Green		...	18	Platt	12
Burham	...	...	2	Plaxtol	...	...	...	6
Ditton	...	...	26	Ryarsh	...	...	...	20
Eccles (Aylesford)		...	10	Snodland		...	...	34
East Malling	...	...	54	Trottiscliffe		...	...	6
East Peckham	...	...	32	Wateringbury		...	...	8
Ightham	...	...	10	Wrotham		...	...	42
Mereworth	...	...	10					

B. Parlour Type—

Birling	...	...	...	12	Leybourne	...	...	4
Borough Green			...	24	West Malling	14
Ditton	6	Wrotham	12

FOUR BEDROOM HOUSES.

A. Non-Parlour Type—

Burham	6
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B. Parlour Type—

East Malling	4	Mereworth	4
East Peckham	4	Wrotham	4
Borough Green	2	West Malling	3

The number of new houses erected by private individuals was 216 as compared with 220 for the previous year.

The shortage of suitable housing accommodation still remains acute throughout the district, and there is an urgent need for houses which could be let at an economic rental.

CLEARANCE AREAS. Clearance Orders were confirmed during the year in respect of dwellings at Ightham, Platt and Wrotham. Eight properties were demolished by the owners under the Slum Clearance Scheme. The tenants were re-housed in new houses erected by the Council.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	330
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	412
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	64
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	78
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	165

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	160
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—*

A. *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

C. *Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1

D. *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—*

(a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year	55
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	55
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	397

(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	47
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	... ..	65
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	479

OVERCROWDING. The statistics relating to overcrowding show clearly the position at the end of the year. It is fully realised that the matter of relieving overcrowding is an urgent one and during the year 65 cases were dealt with. It is of interest to note that during the year 47 new cases of overcrowding were reported.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. At the end of the year there were 80 premises registered, 63 of which were cowsheds and 17 dairies. A great deal of work has been carried out by this Department in connection with the production of Milk, and several sheds have been re-constructed during the year.

Routine inspections of these premises have been carried out during the times of milking, both in the morning and afternoon and the methods of production have been duly noted. The producers are fully aware of the value of regular production of a clean milk supply and it is gratifying to be in a position to report that advantage is taken of any suggestion that is likely to assist this. As in the past, efforts have been mainly directed to the producer.

No cases of illness attributable to milk occurred during the year.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. There were 15 producers holding licenses under the above Order for the production of "Accredited Milk." 36 samples were obtained, 4 of which failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test. In these cases the producer was informed of the facts, the farm being visited, the methods of production inspected, and suggestions made as to the best means of effecting an improvement. In all instances on re-sampling the reports proved the milk to be satisfactory.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. There are 30 licensed slaughter houses in the District and during the year 206 inspections were made, the majority being at the time of slaughtering.

The Table set out below shows the details of the carcasses inspected and condemned, etc. :—

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	643	60	205	1734	2390
Number inspected ...	64	6	20	173	239
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	1	...	...	1	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	9	2	...	6	5
Percentage of the num- ber inspected with disease other than tu- berculosis	15.62	33	...	4.04	4.60
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses con- demned	3	1	...	...	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	2	1	...	...	5
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	7.50	33.33	...	...	5 02

The following food was surrendered voluntarily by the owners :—

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 4 Beasts carcasses | 9 Pigs carcasses |
| 1 Cows carcase | 1 Sheeps carcase |
| 7 Bovine lungs | 6 Sheeps plucks |
| 4 Beasts livers | 13 Pigs plucks |
| 5 boxes of cod fish. | |

A total weight of 2 tons, 9 cwts., 3 qrs., 4 lbs.

SHELL-FISH (Molluscan). There are no shell-fish beds or lay-ings situated within the district.

One prosecution was taken under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, the details of which are as follows:—

On Tuesday the 9th of February, intimation was received to the effect that a butcher had slaughtered an animal without prior notice to the Department. An inspection was made and on the premises was found a carcase suffering from tuberculosis to such an extent that parts of the carcase were unfit for food. The attention of the butcher was drawn to the requirements of the Regulations, and he was informed that the facts would be reported to the Council with a view to proceedings being taken.

The Council instructed that proceedings be taken against the butcher on the following points:—

(1). Slaughtering an animal for the purpose of exposing for sale on premises neither registered or licensed as required by the Public Health Slaughter House Order, 1924.

(2). Failing to give notice of intended slaughter as required by the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

(3). Failing to give special and immediate notice on finding a slaughtered animal to be diseased as required by the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

The Bench considered the case proved and the defendant was found guilty on all charges and was fined £23 and £7 7s. towards the costs.

Great difficulty is experienced in visiting all the slaughter houses for the purpose of inspection of carcasses at the time of slaughtering. The slaughter houses in the district are widely scattered and it has been found impossible to give them all the necessary attention. Butchers continue as in the past to notify regularly under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 and immediately any abnormality is noticed in a carcase then this Department is notified without delay. The system answers its purpose quite satisfactorily and as a general rule no undue difficulty is presented in this direction.

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC. The Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, is now administered wholly by the County Council, and during the year 173 samples were submitted for analysis by the County Sampling Officers.

I am indebted to Mr. W. E. Allen, Deputy Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures for the following information and details as to samples taken:—

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLES TAKEN BY INSPECTORS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Article	Number Genuine	Number Unsatis- factory	Total	Remarks
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	1	...	1	Informal
Aspirins	4	...	4	
Bacon	1	...	1	
Baking Powder ...	2	...	2	
Boracic Acid Crystals	1	...	1	
Brandy	1	...	1	
Butter	17	...	17	
Cocoa	2	...	2	
Cod Liver Oil	1	...	1	
Cream	2	...	2	
Demerara Sugar ...	5	...	5	Informal
Dried Fruit Salad ...	1	...	1	
Eucalyptus Oil	1	...	1	
Friar's Balsam	1	...	1	
Gin	2	...	2	
Ground Almonds	1	...	1	
Ground Cinnamon ...	2	...	2	
Ham & Tongue Paste ...	1	...	1	
Jam	3	...	3	
Lard	4	...	4	Lard Substitute Informal
Margarine	9	..	9	
Milk	90	8	98	
Mustard	2	...	2	
Olive Oil	2	...	2	
Rum	2	...	2	
Sausage	1	...	1	
Shortex	1	...	1	
Tinned Peas	1	...	1	
Vinegar	2	...	2	
Whisky	2	...	2	
Totals	165	8	173	

DETAILS OF UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES AND PROSECUTIONS.

Milk	10.0%	deficient in fat.	Written to by Clerk of the County Council.
„	13.0%	„ „ „	No action taken. Deficiency due to change over to mechanical milkers.
„	10.6%	„ „ „	Written to by Clerk of the County Council. “Appeal to Cow” in connection with above.
„	11.0%	„ „ „	
„	18.3%	„ „ „	Prosecuted. Case dismissed. Hunt v. Richardson relied upon.
„	7.6%	„ „ „	Prosecuted. Fined £2.
Milk Contained	8.2%	of added water.	Prosecuted. Fined £5. “On delivery” sample in connection with above.
„	9.3%	„ „ „	

HOP PICKING.

Hop picking commenced on the 27th August and continued to the 24th September, but generally throughout the district picking was completed on the 17th September.

During the season routine inspections of all farms were carried out. As a general rule farmers gave every assistance and were only too willing to adopt any suggestions for the welfare of the pickers. During the past few years conditions at the various farms have improved beyond recognition.

The duties imposed upon the tenants of the farms by bye-laws and regulations have been duly observed, and all requirements demanded by the officers of this Department have been met promptly.

As in the past, inspections were carried out before the actual picking commenced and any defects met with were remedied.

The organisations which provide medical facilities assist to a very large degree in keeping the camps free from any serious outbreak of disease. The details of these organisations have been set out in previous reports.

One case of diphtheria was reported from a camp at East Peckham, the patient—a child, was removed to the isolation hospital.

Dr. C. J. Donelan, a Ministry of Health Inspector, visited many of the camps on the 4th September. Adverse criticism was made of two camps only, otherwise he was satisfied with the conditions prevailing and the improvements carried out.

I am indebted to the Housing Officer (Mr. John Hole) for his assistance in connection with the Housing Statistics.

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere appreciation of the kindness and consideration extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Council throughout the year.

I am,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN L. BUNDY,

Sanitary Inspector.

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